

Patent Application Serial No. 09/925,181
Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 to Office Action dated 11/22/2005
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REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Reply, Applicants have canceled claims 15, 16 and 18-21, and have amended claim 17 to remove the antecedent basis problem pointed out by the rejected.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14-16, 18-23, 25, 26, 28-30, 32, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,366,761 (Montpetit) in view of USPN 5,812,545 (Liebowitz). By this Reply, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14-16, 18-23, 25, 26, 28-30, 32, 33 and 35 rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3 and 6 are allowable.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 10, 13, 24, 27, 31 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claims 17 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections and including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Reply, Applicants have amended these claims accordingly.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,
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